then, and call me gossip Quickly ? coming in to borrow a mess of vinegar[3]; telling us, she had a good dish of prawns; whereby thou didst desire to eat some ; whereby I told thee, they were ill for a green wound ? And didst thou not, when she was gone down stairs, desire me to be no more so familiarity with such poor people; saying, that ere long they should call me madam ? And didst thou not kiss me, and bid me fetch thee thirty shillings ? I put thee now to thy book-oath ; deny it, if thou canst.

FIL. My lord, this is a poor mad soul; and she says, up and down the town, that her eldest son is like you: she hath been in good case, and, the truth is, poverty hath distracted her. But for these foolish officers, I beseech you, I may have redress against them.

CM. IUST. Sir John, sir John, I am well acquainted with your manner of wrenching the true cause the false way. It is not a confident brow, nor the throng of words that come with such more than impudent sauciness from you, can thrust me from a level consideration; you have[4], as it appears to me, practised upon the easy-yielding spirit of this

3—a MESS of vinegar;] So, in Mucedoras :

" I tell you all the *messes* are on the table already.

" There wants not so much as a *mess of mustard*."

Again, in an ancient interlude published by Rastell; no title or date:

" Ye mary sometyme in a *messe of vergesse*."

A *mess* seems to have been the common term for a small proportion of any thing belonging to the

kitchen. STEEVENS.

So the Scriptural term; "a *mess* of pottage." MALONE.

4— you have &c.] In the first quarto it is read thus:—"You have, (as it appears to me,) practised upon the easy-yielding spirit of this woman, and made her serve your uses both in purse and person." Without this, the following exhortation of the Chief Justice is less proper. JOHNSON.

In the folio the words—"and made her serve" &c. were omitted. And in the subsequent speech, "the villainy you have